

Amendments To The Specification:

In the English translation document, please delete the term --Description-- at page 1 line 1, before the title.

In the English translation document, please add the paragraph at page 1 line 4, after the title, as follows:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is the US National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2004/003071, filed February 23, 2004 and claims the benefit thereof. The International Application claims the benefits of German application No. 10318837.1, filed April 25, 2003, both applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 1 line 4, after the newly added CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS paragraph, as follows:

--FIELD OF INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 1 line 11, as follows:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 3 lines 5-20, as follows:

This object is achieved by ~~the a method according to claim 1~~, wherein the network contains a large number of nodes and each of the nodes has a number of connections by means of which the nodes and the devices can be interconnected, the method comprising the following steps:

- a) identifying the node connected to one of the devices,
- b) ascertaining the number of connections of this node and a predefined hierarchy of connections,
- c) determining for this node the connection with which the device is connected to this node,
- d) determining for this node other connections which are connected to other nodes or devices,

e) establishing a relationship between devices in the network, on the basis of the connection hierarchy predefined for this node and of the determined connections that are connected to devices or other nodes.

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 3 lines 22-33, as follows:

The object is further achieved by ~~the~~ an apparatus ~~according to claim 13~~, having

- means of identifying the node connected to one of the devices,
- means of determining the node connection with which the device is connected to the node,
- means of determining other connections of the node which are connected to other nodes or devices,
- means of establishing a relationship between network devices, on the basis of the connection hierarchy predefined for the node and of the determined connections that are connected to devices or other nodes.

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 5 lines 28-30, as follows:

The principle of the present invention will now be explained in greater detail in the following description with reference to the Figures ~~in which~~.

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 5 line 31, as follows:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 6 line 4, as follows:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION--